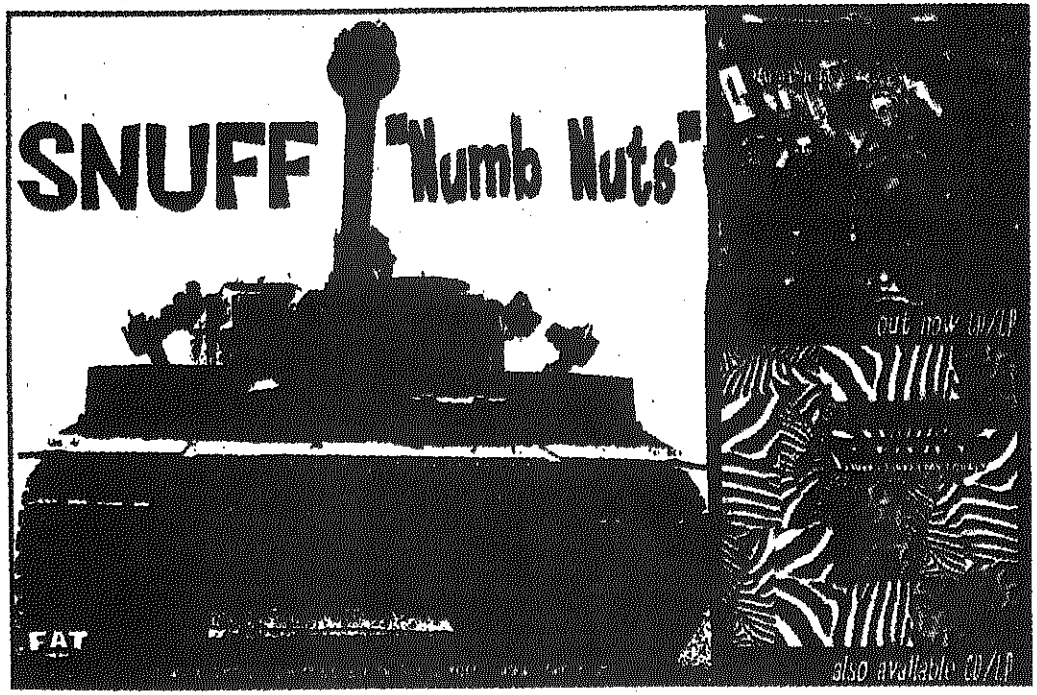
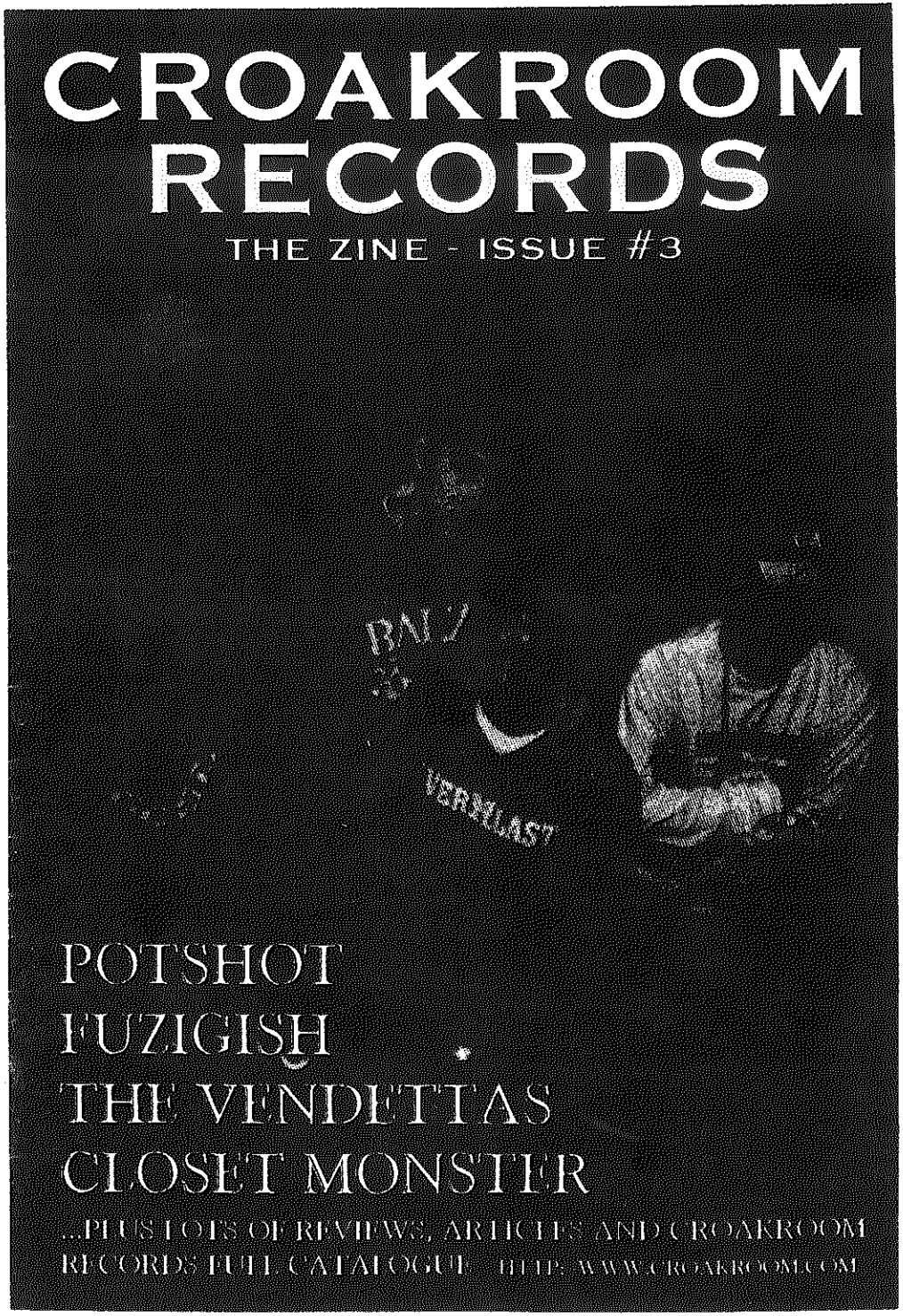


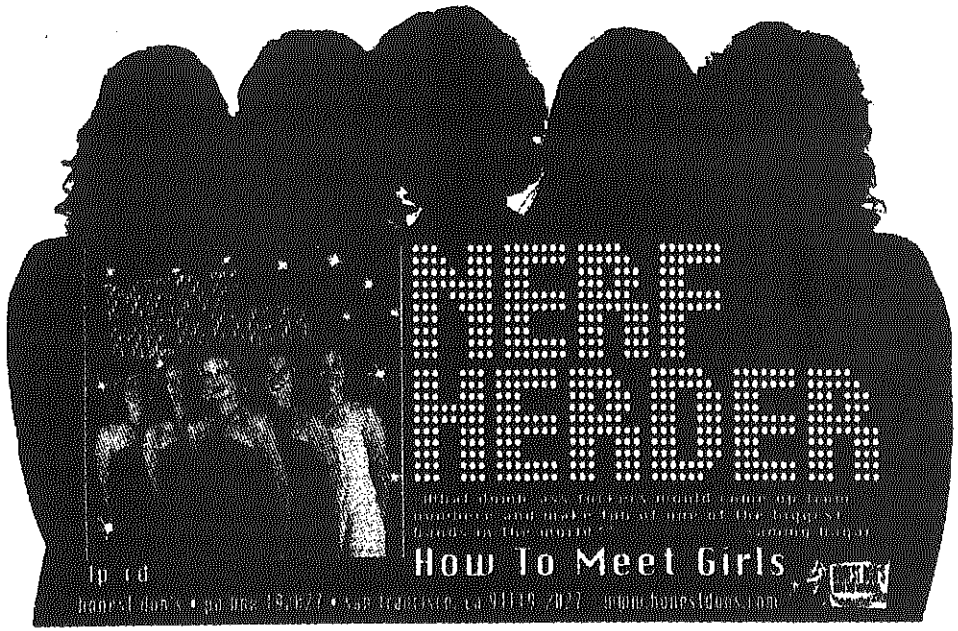
CROAKROOM RECORDS

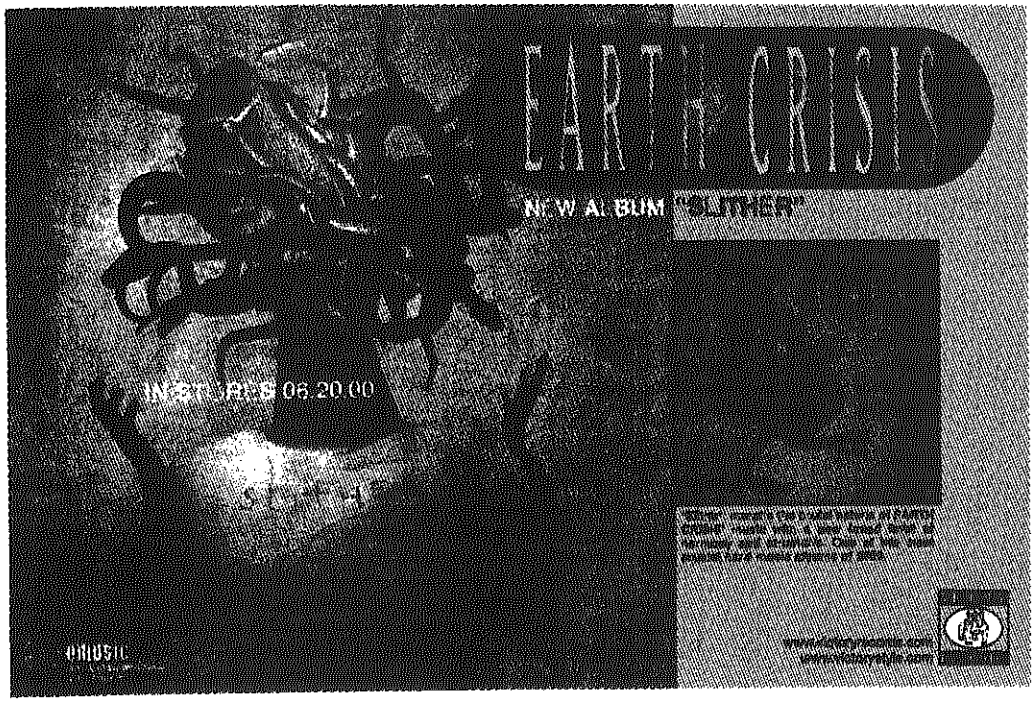
THE ZINE - ISSUE #3



POTSHOT
FUZIGISH
THE VENDETTAS
CLOSET MONSTER

...PLUS LOTS OF REVIEWS, ARTICLES AND CROAKROOM RECORDS FULL CATALOGUE HTTP://WWW.CROAKROOM.COM





EDITORIAL

Welcome to issue number 3 of Croakroom Record's zine! Yet another issue filled with interesting interviews with both local and international bands, reviews, ads and bits and jobs.

I've just spent the last hour writing the editorial for this piece and halfway through, I trashed it. I was bitching about all these money-grabbing companies jumping on the punk-wagon and only now giving the time of day to punk music cause they now see some money in it. It's a lot easier to bitch about people's wrongs than it is to give thanks and positive thought. My whole purpose of writing the editorial in the end was to convince people to support their punk scene.

It's great, by all means, go and buy the latest full-colour, glossy magazine with the punk news in it, go to the next music festival with the punk stage and go and buy your favourite punk CD from the big CD store who rips you off with R140 price tag. Hell, I did all of that in this last month. But there's one thing you should never forget - and that's your punk scene. The above big companies will soon stop printing punk news, selling punk CD's and stop having punk bands at their festivals...cause trust me, a new flavour of the month will come and they will be after that leaving you in their dust. But I can guarantee you, that kid with the zine 3 years ago, will still be putting out that zine with the same brilliant interviews and reviews, the kid who started the punk distro will still be selling punk CD's at a cheap price and the kids who spent their pocket money to put on punk shows will still be putting on punk shows. Why? cause punk music is not money to them, it's love, a lifestyle.

There's nothing better than supporting your own kind. I wish there were more zines in South Africa - I'd buy every issue possible, I will gladly give my hard-earned wages to the punk distro for CD's and I would much rather pay my R20 at the door of a punk show cause I know that that money is going straight back into the scene.
There! I just said it...giving back to the scene. Every punk kid can give back to the scene whether it's by paying the cover charge at the door, buying the zine or even organizing a show him/herself or putting out your own zine

I think now is a good time to give credit to some people in the punk scene who deserve it. Why not e-mail them, order from them and show them that the punk scene is, has and always will be a community of friends and support. If I've left anyone out I apologise...
Brandon @ Racket Records, Paul @ Nifty Records, Croakroom Records, Dylan @ In My Heart Zine, Hennie @ Way Cool Records, Raphael @ Sheepskate Records, the Cape Town crews, Punks Against racism, and all the punk bands in South Africa.

Enjoy the zine!
Andrew

PS: Thanks to the following people, companies & bands for making this issue possible...
Yoko and the rest of
POTSHOT,
FUZIGISH,
THE VENDETTAS,
CLOSET MONSTER,
Revelation Records,
Fat Wreck Chords,
Honest Don's
Victory Records, and anyone else we forgot!

FUZIGISH

PUTTING THE SKA BACK INTO PUNK ROCK

FUZIGISH have been around for years and have only in the last two years or so refined their sound to what is now probably known as South Africa's best skanking tunes ever. Their live shows are the funniest around with never a dull moment, and having just released their latest album "Skankers Union" on Croakroom Records, FUZIGISH are about to take the world by storm!

1. So how has life been treating FUZIGISH?

Jay: Pretty cool. We've had some top gigs, we've recorded and we have hooked up with Croakroom Records which is really great news cause Croakroom is tops.

2. Give us a quick history of the band?

Jay: The band was around since 98' in various shapes and forms mainly playing covers at friends parties. In terms of actually getting our act together and getting some direction and focus we really started at the beginning of 99' with our present line-up.

3. Now you guys just finished playing a show with the American ska group 5 IRON FRENZY. How did that go?

Jay: We had a really cool gig at The Big Easy on the Friday. The crowd was cool and made the gig which was absolute chaos with stage diving, circle jerking and mad sing alongs! It was cool to meet 5IF and speak to them about music.
Rockwell: Definitely the best gig I've ever played!!! The crowd was awesome!

4. Do you guys consider yourselves more ska or punk rock?

Rudabar: More ska, well at least with our album coming out the emphasis was more on a ska sound, although there is also elements of dub, reggae, punk rock and swing in the mix.

5. Ska in South Africa seems to be a lot less popular than punk rock, why do you think that is?

Jay: People have had less exposure to it than punk. When we say ska to most people they don't know what we mean but when we say punk they immediately think of sex pistols, blink-182 or green day and therefore have some reference.
I usually say to people that don't understand what ska is : "Have you heard Sublime, Mighty Mighty Bosstones or Madness ?" "Well that's ska'ish kinda music and we play ska, but we don't sound

...e those bands, although ...ey are ska bands" This ...ually makes them more ...nfused, so they are forced ... come and watch us.

...kank: The cool thing about ...ka is that it's just an honest ...nd of music. It ...ncompasses all the things ...at make music enjoyable, a ...ood steady rhythm, good ...ooks and melody, and once ...ou've got that then you put in ...hat ever lyrical assault that ...ou want whether they be ...pical, fun, political ...whatever, which is the ...eason I think people are ...autious of it because its just ...ood honest music in your ...ice style.

... You are getting ready to ...elease your latest album ...n Croakroom Records. ...ell us about it, how did the ...ecording go, are you ...appy with it, what is it ...alled, etc, etc.

...ockwell: We had a lot of fun ...oing the album, and people ...hat have heard it are pretty ...toked, so that's super rad!
...kank: I enjoy the title track ...ost of all. I enjoy playing that ...ong even though its so ...imple its really fun. I like all ...ifferent parts of it both ...usically and lyrically

...udabar: Its called ...Skankers Union" and we ...retty happy with the results ...o skank it up !

7. Now Rockwell seems to be a bit of a porn star and a ladies man and yet, we never see any woman around him. Why do you think that is?

Rockwell: I think you're wrong about not seeing any woman around me, that's just the problem...there are just too many beautiful woman in the scene to choose from!
And someone has to stay single in the band!!! But if any gorgeous woman are interested please send photo to "Croakroom Records" with a short description, (hobbies, bank balance, etc).

8. If FUZIGISH wasn't around, what do you think, you guys would be doing now?

Rockwell: Touring with Glen Medeiros.
Jay: Helping monkeys make important decisions. Like a monkey councillor.
Skank: I wish I could say a street punk, making a living by kicking in yuppies heads and stealing their cell phones. but alas, to be honest, I'd probably be stuck in the job I'm stuck in trying to scrape by on a piss willy salary.
Rudabar: Drinking tequila on a beach in Mexico somewhere....and eating da worms mon.

9. So what's up next for FUZIGISH. Future plans?

Jay: Get the album out and sell enough to go back to reprint. That means lots of gigs around the country and making lots of new friends.
Skank: Look at making the next album even better than this one

10. Any last words?

Rockwell: thanks Frosty!
Skank: Government, are salesmen without the product.

Interview - Croakmaster

POTSHOT
SKA/PUNK FROM JAPAN!

Japan is probably not known for their punk rock and ska but at things keep going the way they are it could soon change. Chances are the last Japanese punk band you would think of would be the Tokyo based Doing successfully and signed to Fat Mike's (of NOFX) Fat Wreck Chords.

But there's another band who are making an incredible mark on the Japanese ska/punk scene - and that is POTSHOT.

POTSHOT have been around since 1995 and was started by the vocalist and songwriter Ryoji. The rest of the band include Kobai on drums, Satoshi on guitar, Michy on trumpet, Chucky on trombone and Katsuya on bass. Together this 6 piece ska/punk outfit play some of the fastest, catchiest, melodious, sing-a-long ska/punk ever heard out of Japan.

In 1997, POTSHOT released their first full album "Pot's and Shot's" which was released on Mike Park's (ex Skankin' Pickle) label Asian Man Records in America and Japan. Soon after this in 1998, Ryoji started his own label called TV Local Records. TV Local Records soon gave birth to POTSHOT's second album entitled "Rock'n'Roll" and then in 1999 their third album "Till I Die". Both of which have and will be released on mini-cd on Asian Man Records.

March 2000 saw POTSHOT joining the Chunkers, Mike Park's side project band MU330 on Japan for "The Real Let Peace Tour" which urged the necessity of peace and unity to the kids in Japan.

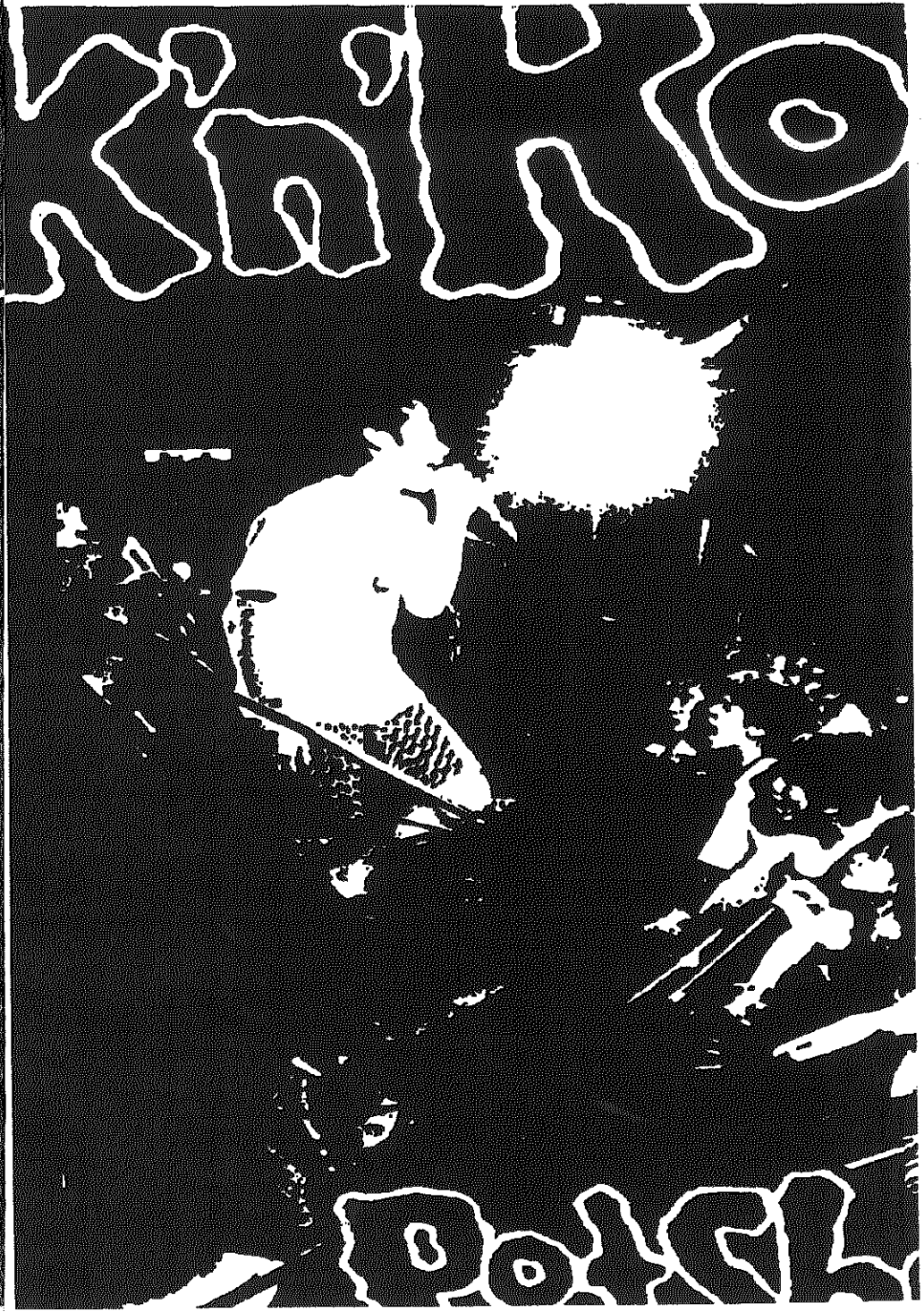
Then in April POTSHOT headed over to the big US for their first mini tour with MU330.

Being a first time for the band playing in front of an American crowd must have been a harrowing experience but from the stories going round it was a huge success!

Along with all this touring and being asked to play several large festivals in Japan POTSHOT have still had the time to release a new single called "To that Light" in June and are due to release another one in September. Plans for a new album are being made for release in October.

Personally POTSHOT are one of the better ska/punk bands around and give a lot of US bands a good run for their money. Do yourself a favour and get ahold of a POTSHOT's CD's as you won't be disappointed.

Don't forget you can hear a track from POTSHOT on the new Croaktown Records compilation CD "Taking Over The World".



Vendettas

alifeofcrime

Aaaahhh, what can be said about THE VENDETTAS that hasn't already been said..."Those Bastard punk rockers"...nope that's been said already! THE VENDETTAS are the punkest punkers in the South African scene today and play some of the best hardcore punk rock you'll ever hear. Here's what they had to say about life in general...

1. OK, Vinnie, greet the readers in Spanish.
Cuál está encima de los ejes de balancín de Punk

2. What have THE VENDETTAS been up to in the last couple of months.
[S]Trying to write new shit, sessioning atCortex, watching bands livin large!!
[B]But Playstation mainly
[C]Visiting Chile, hating girls
[V]Joining Castros freedom fighters
[X]Beying amps, writing, testing the laws of physics

3. THE VENDETTAS are supposed to be recording a new album soon. What's happening with that?

[S]Bands, bufactries and bad timing, we're messing mainly with getting studio time and bank loans to conclude, the arts done, the songs are there except two, and theres a video....er August lets just say August
[B] August?!
[C]Fucking A for fucking August
[V] Revolución Revolución !!
[x] Shut the fuck up

4. What has been the high point of THE VENDETTA'S career?

[s]Hangovers
[b]Grand Torismo, Drum and Bass
[c] Gaining another 5kilos on a liquid diet
[v] Watching the chikkies
[x] Punkfest, Croakroom Comp, Durban, shit to remember

5. THE VENDETTAS come across as a lawless, alcoholic, fk you" kind of a band. Do you agree with that?**

[s]I'd prefer to think of us as free thinkers, not bound by law, religion or race. I hope we provoke thought rather than violent self-destruction. But fuck we're definately not going to apologize for the path we choose.
[c] Its all about democracy, respect, it may seem like chaos but forcing views or religion down someones throat is as bad as handing a child a gun and telling him who tha the enemy is.
[b] Well not really I mean guns in themselves.....
[v] Ah fuck you man, I'll fucking cap you
[x] Lovely Democracy we have here.

6. Apart from South Africa's straight edge hardcore bands, THE VENDETTAS are probably the fastest and most hardcore of the punk genre. Do you think there need to be more angry punk bands like yourselves in SA? Are South Africans becoming too soft?

[s]And we thought we were too slow, no really its about energy, the crowd gives us the fuel we burn it up.
[c] That sounds like a Yardley ad, the scene here has problems ska is infiltrating and must be purged with violence....er peace Andy, Fuzi, Fungy
[b] Whatever man, may Blackmetal take over the world....
[v] Ah everyone heres just pussys, holding back too scared to fuck shit up
[x]Stuart only knows three chords and Brett learn't to drum listening to Russian Speed Metal so for us speed was inevitable.

7. Do you guys have any issues that you sing about eg., rape, racism etc?

[c] We sing about alot of the problems people tend to ignore, genocide, mass control,
[b] Beer
[v] The death of Chile at the hands of the American capitalist pigs
[x] Ha ha, more like lets drink more beer and fall over harder
[s]At the risk of sounding PC we do sing about issues, but more issues we've known than ones people find easy to support, get their noddy badge for aids but have never touched the hand of someone dying from it, nor have we so how could we suddenly pretend to know what that situations like...er for example

8. Do you think it's important for bands to sing about rape and racism? Cause a lot of kids look up to bands like yourselves.

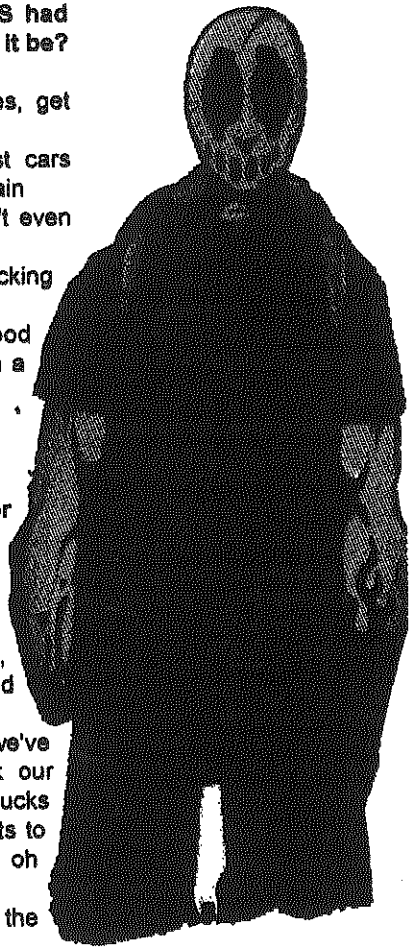
[s]God help them ha ha, yeah defininatly, just don't use a cause as your jumpstart to fame and recognition, honesty truth and for the most part respect, for yourself and your fellow man, move over Ray Macauley
[c] Damn straight, but people do tend to soapbox too much, we've been bred on sky punching fuckheads, don't do it just because every one else is

9. If THE VENDETTAS had one wish, what would it be?

[b] Tourbus with flames, get more rings
[v] Get rich, drive fast cars never have to work again
[x] Is that all, you don't even work
[v] I used to you fucking laywer bitch
[s] Play with Good Riddance, put chris on a diet
[c] I am on diet, no beer before breakfast

10. Any last words or shout-outs?

[c]Blood yells to Croakroom, Andy, Sasha, Rich, Paul/HardandFaust and Paul
Spiers. All the bands we've played with and rock our world, even if ska sucks and emos crap! Shouts to our punk ass friends oh and weighless
[v] Amstel, Blacklabel, the girls who flash at us
[x]The Swiss engineers who made my amp
[s] Big shouts to every fucker thats glanced in our direction, payed money to see us and bust a hip jumping up and down, the guys and girls that live the scene, the younguns who are learning to think not to accept and the old farts for breaking the ground.
[b] Chevy Bellair's, tenpin and gold teeth!



closet monster

Punk rock has always revolved around America, but just up north of the border lies a country with just as much beauty and character as the States. There also lies some of the best ska & punk bands around. One of those bands is Closet Monster. We here at Croakroom got London, the lead singer, to tell us a little bit about themselves and Canada itself!

My name is London and I am from the Toronto, Canada based band called Closet Monster. We play political punk rock; thats music with revolutionary tendancies and lyrics to inspire positive social change for everybody, rather than just a small sector or the globe. I play bass guitar and sing. The other members of the band are as follows: Kyle Marx- drums and backbone, Jesse- guitar and vocals, Matt, the ween, Murphy- our newest member who plays guitar, sings, and crys on stage. The four of us have made it our goal to produce the highest quality, catchy and melodic punk rock possible, with as much angst mixed in, that nobody would be able to compare us to anyone if they tried.

The band has been together for about three years now and touring heavily since the start. We all came from different bands that broke up and found ourselves the only remaining people with the drive and desire to keep at it. That and our common love for red koolaide helped form the basis to which we have built upon until this day. Right now we are driving through the Canadian Rockies in western Canada far from our homes. We are on our summer 2000 tour of Canada and other than the usual tour stench of the van, poor weather, and the constant nakedness of our drummer things are going great. If you grab a map and look at Canada, way over near the west coast you may be able to see Jasper National Park in the province of Alberta, and if you look even closer you might be able to see our raggedy asses in our van puttin along the mountain bases. Holy shit these mountains are breath taking.

So anyway, as I already stated we are from Canada, and as far as the scene here goes it is pretty solid. It is very difficult for a band to get on their feet and conquer the nation as a whole because everything is so spread out, but the individual scenes are all pretty developed. We, for some reason, have been able to manage to play in almost every possible city of our nation, so therefore have experienced what few Canadian bands get to... the diversity and culture of all the nooks and crannies. Every town has many bands, and tons of kids that go to shows, yet due to geography it is near impossible to unite and create a national scene. Canada has ten provinces and two territories and is the second largest country as far as land mass goes, I think, so you can imagine the difficulty of creating one united independent diy punk scene. One day though, one day, I mean the way technology is going its doing wonders for indy music. The fact that I am e-mailing this interview to Croakroom in S.A. is a brilliant example.

As far as a Canadian punk rock band making a living goes... its just as difficult here as just about anywhere. If you don't have a label that is going to market you thoroughly and do all the publicity well... its not likely. But hey, we are making a hell of an attempt. Its all about the perseverance, and our motto is: if no one wants to help we'll do it our fuckin selves.

Some other respectable bands that have come from our country and that everyone should check out cause they are not only great individuals but awesome bands as well could go as... Marilyns Vitamins, Belvedere, Propagandhi, The Weakerthans, The Stiffs, Tastes Like Burning, Submission Hold, The Everymen, Blank Stare, Gob, Another Joe and Choke. That is just for starters too... I could go on for a while. And take my word for it or look em up on the internet 4 yurself but they are all respectable.

You can buy CLOSET MONSTER'S *"A Fight For What Is Right"* album from Croakroom Records.
http://www.closetmonster.com

REVIEWS

ANN BETETTA - "To All Our Fallen Heroes..."
Oh my God! This is the best punk rock you're ever going to hear!
14 Tracks and not one bad one. This is the most original punk I've heard in a long time. There is no comparisons for this band. If you like fast, bouncy riffs with "unity"-type, sing-a-long songs then this is the album for you. (Lookout Records)

DIJIT - "One Me A Thousand You"
Cape Town punk rock. Seen these guys live and they were fast and punk rock! Their recording on the other hand sounds almost like a different band. Don't get me wrong, this album rocks. It's still fast and punk rock but has hints of emo in it too. These guys will go far! (Dijit)

EARTH CRISIS - "Slither"
Absolutely Brilliant!! This is damn good hardcore. Not too growly, not too metal, just perfect. This is the future of hardcore I'm sure! Nice CD-Rom feature on the disc too. (Victory Records)

ECLECTICS - "Idle Worship"
Very original ska...that's the best I can describe. The album has a very unusual recording. Medium-paced ska! (Jump Up Records)

ELLIOTT - "False Cathedrals"
Unfortunately I did not like this at all. It's emo (nothing wrong with that!), but it's way too slow. If you're into the real mushy, love, emo style of music then this is for you! (Revelation Records)

FIVE IRON FRENZY - "LIVE - Proof That The Youth Are Revolting"
Well, South Africa has just had the pleasure of having 5IF over and what brilliant shows they were.
This album is perfect...it's a perfect reminder what they were like live in front of our eyes. Good variation of fast and slow ska/punk with horns. Recorded from their summer '99 tour. (5 Minute Walk Records)

FIVE IRON FRENZY - "Quantity Is Job 1"
A bit of a short CD with only 8 songs but the songs make up for it. This album has to have 5IF's best stuff. Ska/punk in the vein of LESS THAN JAKE, THE OC SUPERTONES, etc, ec. (5 Minute Walk Records)

FUZIGISH - "Skankers Union"
This is the best South Africa ska band I've ever heard in my life. It's punk, it's reggae, it's ska, it's dub...all mixed in to a perfect blend. No matter what style of music you listen to you will like this. Catch 22 meets The Specials. (Croakroom Records)

GANGSTER FUN - "Pure Amphetamines"
This is not too bad. Very ska / rock sounding band. The CD gets a bit boring near the end but the first half of the CD is real good! (Jump Up Records)

GARRISON - "A Mile In Cold Water"
Emo, emo and more emo. If you feel depressed or just wanna be alone then this is the CD for you. Good melodic emo music for those lonely nights. Similar to GAMEFACE. (Revelation Records)

GOLDFINGER - "Stomping Ground"
This is one of those albums where on first listen it sucks, but trust me, give it a another listen and you'll be hooked. Not as good as their first s/t album but still brilliant. Lots of reggae, Jamaica style influence. (Mojo Records)

GREENHOUSE - "Tomorrow The World"
Good 'ol ska. A slight hint of punk in this but this is more ska orientated. Traditional ska for the year 2000. (Jump Up Records)

GROINCHURN - "whoami"
Maybe I've been listening to too much ska lately but this is way too heavy for my liking. This album has to be the heaviest collection of songs in my CD collection. Death metal meets grindcore with a dash of hardcore punk. Not for the faint-hearted! (Groinchurn)

HOT STOVE JIMMY - "Salute"
This takes a while to get into and I don't think it's every ones cup-of-tea. Very experimental. (Jump Up Records /)

HOT STOVE JIMMY - "Theme For A Major Hit"
This is a good improvement on their "Salute" album. Still very experimental but a lot heavier. Heavy ska with jumps and skips like you've never heard. A definite must for The Blue Meanies fans! (Jump Up Records)

LAGWAGON - "Let's Talk About Leftovers"
A must for all LAGWAGON fans. This CD has new stuff (which didn't make it onto the "Let's Talk About Feelings" album), out takes, rare compilation tracks and early demos (heavy metal). The live recording in Japan at the end of the CD is the best!. Typical Fat Wreck Chords punk rock....GOOD STUFF!! (My Records)

LINK 80 - "The Struggle Continues..."
You will not find anything better than this. Hardcore and ska mixed together for the fastest, hardest punk rock ever. This is LINK 80's first album with the new vocalist Ryan and it is just as good, if not better, than their previous albums. This is hardcore with horns. If you like hardcore or ska you will like this. (Asian Man Records)

THE NERVE AGENTS - "Days Of The White Owl"
Wasn't quite sure what to think when I open up the envelope and found a CD with pink and black graphics. The members of the band look like they come from the Sid Vicious days. But don't let that put you off. This is damn good hardcore from America. Ghastly hardcore - old school style! (Revelation Records)

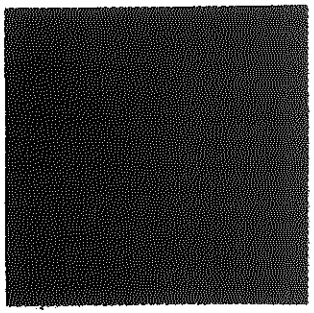
NESHAMAH - "The Grass Withers, And it's Flowers Falls"
Aaaaahhh, don't ever tell me South African hardcore sux. This Cape Town (South Africa) hardcore outfit could easily give any Victory Record's band a run for their money. This is brilliant. Hard, heavy and yet still very melodic. If you like STRIFE and other Victory Record's bands then you will definitely like this. (Neshamah / Croakroom Records)

ORANGETREE - "Fixing Stupid"
Mmmm, this is real nice. The vocalist is the ex-vocalist for MU330. So yea, it has hints of MU330. Nice punky ska with lots of melody! (Jump Up Records)

PENFOLD - "You know where the station is..." (7")
They've been around for a good couple of years, and this 7" is a vast improvement on their first 7". If you like the new school Strung Out type of sound you'll like this. Vocals need a bit of work but not bad at all. (Last Chance Records)

POTSHOT - Till I Die"
Aaaahhhhh, POTSHOT just kick a lot of ass. Pure energetic Japanese ska/punk with horns. If you like Less

REVIEWS



Than Jake, The B. Lee Band etc you'll definitely like this! (TV Freak Records)

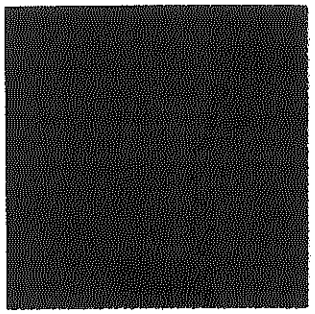
SERIAL KILLER - "Compilation"
Not a bad compilation at all. Tracks that stand out are BEEFCAKE, GOB, STRUNG OUT, BIGWIG, 88 FINGERS LOUIE, COOTER, HATE FUCK TRIO and RHYTHM COLLISION. 28 Bands all together. (Fearless Records)

SKAPONE - "Bold New Flavor"
This 6-piece band throws out the best swing/ska I've heard. It's not the punkest of albums around but if you want a bit of swing mixed in your ska then SKAPONE is the band to listen to. (Jump Up Records)

SQUAD FIVE-O - "Fight The System"
This is good ska/punk rock from 4 Christians. 18 Songs on this CD which'll keep you busy. Some songs get a bit boring but all in all very good. The OC SUPERTONES meet OPERATION IVY meet MXPX. (Bulletproof Records)

TELEGRAPH - "The Skolars Collection: 93-96"
Damn, this is good. Full on energetic ska/punk rock, with sing-a-long vocals and catchy skanking guitar riffs. This is brilliant and a nice long CD with extra pieces at the end which make for a good laugh! (Jump Up Records)

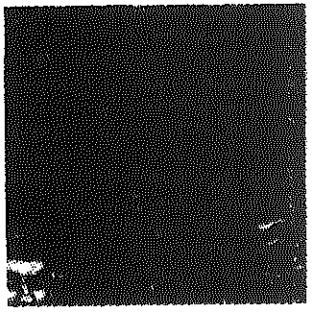
TELEGRAPH - "Quit Your Band"
Not as good as the above mentioned album but still brilliant. I was fortunate enough to see these guys live and this album just does not do them justice. Still a damn

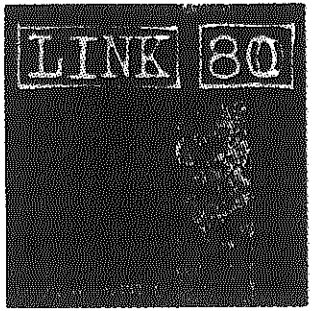


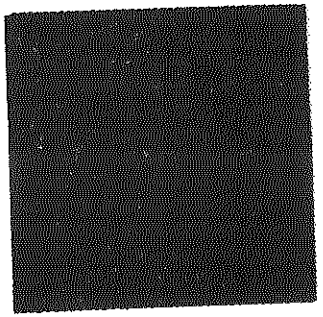
good album. 6 tracks including live and demo versions! (Jump Up Records)

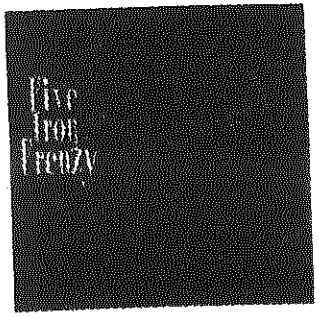
THUMPER - "Songs From The Grave"
I don't know the whole story but it sounds like THUMPER got themselves into some trouble and had to dismember cause they were getting death threats. You gotta give a band credit for that! Motorhead playing ska. Gets a bit boring but a good listen anyway. (Jump Up Records)

VOODOO GLOW SKULLS - "Exitos Al Cabron"
More hardcore with horns. 11 Songs. Most songs are from previous albums out on

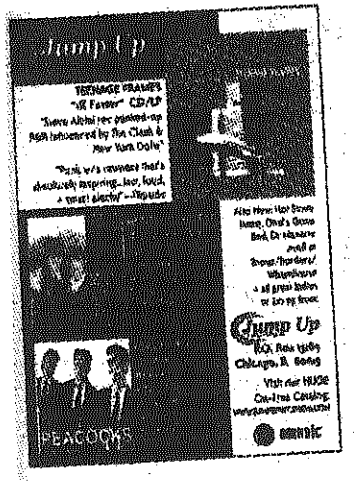








Epitaph but they are all sung in Spanish. There are one or two new tracks too. Picture ska music played by 7 big, geeky, Spanish looking chaps. Don't get me wrong...they'll kick your ass one time! BRILLIANT!!! (Grita Records)



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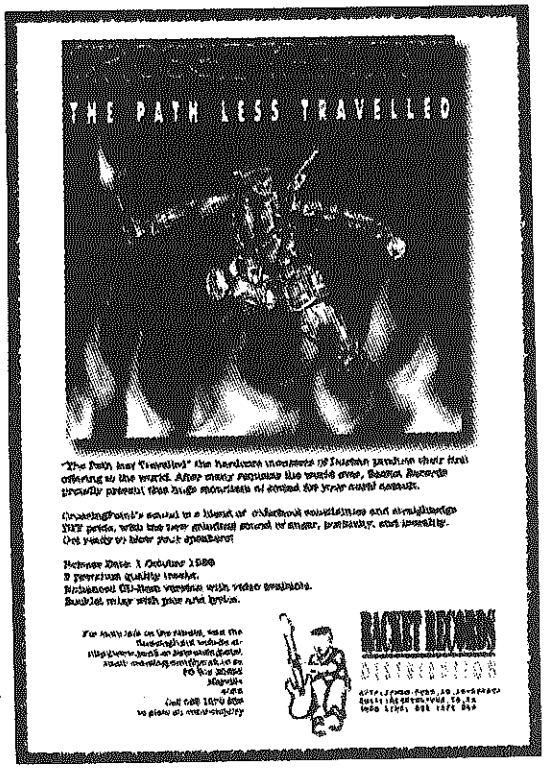

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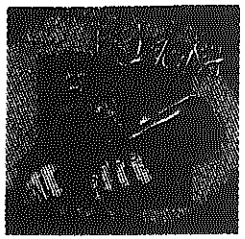

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HOT STOVE JIMMY
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